

Course: This special topics course will explore the intersection of psychology and media. Both literature and film (and even some music) will be used to investigate key aspects of the discipline, to explore changes in our understanding of the field, and place a lens on how narrative shapes cultural beliefs about psychology. Although not an exhaustive list, among the topics illuminated by the works we will explore include nature/nurture, mind/body, self and society, social behavior, and psychopathology.

Texts: You will need to read these two short novels that are about as old as your instructors. You can use any version or edition, and they are readily available (and cheap) as used paperbacks on Amazon and Ebay

Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep, by Phillip K. Dick (1968)

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, by Ken Kesey (1962)

You will need to read, or watch, at least one other work of your choosing (and our approval) Anything else - readings, films, podcasts, music, etc - will be provided

The Basics: Given the course format - we will often watch a film and then discuss it - your attendance and participation will be essential. Beyond that, the most basic admonition every syllabus should include is that cheating (broadly defined) is not allowed. Or, as the university likes us to say: "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct)." If you have any questions about what constitutes cheating please ask us. Also, note that "The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.etamu.edu/counsel." And, be advised that only qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, even license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. And last, we recognize that AI is a tool that many people now use throughout various parts of everyday life. We will allow you to use an AI prompt to generate a first draft of an assignment. However, we expect you to contribute substantially to then make that work your own (in terms of content and style). If you choose this route, you will need to submit your prompt and what was produced by AI along with your final content. Please note, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they use AI or not. This specifically includes cases in which AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources (which it absolutely loves to do!).

Format: As you can see from the Schedule of Events below, the Format will vary substantively from class to class. That said - when we are watching or listening to material we want you quiet - otherwise we want you talking!!! Indeed, we will do some "mini lectures" over matters psychological, but otherwise this will be a course where we want you to be leading the discussions based on the materials we have provided.

Disclaimer: When talking about psychological concepts and experiences there is always the potential for disturbing content. Additionally, filmmakers exploring these areas may purposefully include disturbing material. We believe that college is an excellent and safe place to experience these images, words, and thoughts to better understand life. With that said, if you find yourself needing to take a breather during a film or discussion, please do so. If your concerns persist we encourage you to use the Counseling Center resources listed earlier.

Grades: Overall Class Participation – that is – attendance/attention/and participation (we've got your back, introverts) 30%
Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep book discussion 10%
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest paper (over both book and film) 20%
Presentation over your selection 15%
Final Paper over your selection 25%

Honestly, if you do what we ask, you'll be fine.

Papers: Everyone will do two papers - one over *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and one over a work of their choice (and our approval). We will talk about the nuts and bolts of these by-and-by.

Here is a very ad hoc and incomplete list of some suggestions for the Final Paper (or for fun!).

A Beautiful Mind
A Clockwork Orange
AI
(most any book by) Albert Camus
Being John Malkovich
Being There
Black Swan
Donnie Darko
Equus
Fight Club
Full Metal Jacket
Girl Interrupted
Good Will Hunting
Harold and Maude

Lord of the Flies (book version!)
Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence
Midnight Cowboy
Nightmare Alley (book or movie)
Prisilla, Queen of the Desert
Rain Man
Rashomon
Rear Window
Requiem for a Dream
Shutter Island (book or movie)
Silence of the Lambs
What About Bob?
Whiplash

Late Penalties and Make-ups: In general, we'd prefer that you not turn in late work. But, we also know that life can get in the way of good intentions at times. If you find yourself having trouble getting work to us by the deadline, please talk with us before the due date to provide context. If you don't talk with us before submitting late work please note that we will hold it to higher standards than your peers as you will have had more time to complete it.

The Schedule of Events (have the reading for that day done before class)

- 8/26 Course Introduction and Overview: From The Greeks, thru Shakespeare, to Scifi
Psychology in Literature
Listen to *Flowers for Algernon*
Discussion: Post Mortem, then Preview and Preparation
- 9/2 **Nature vs Nurture**
Watch *GATTACA*
- 9/9 Discussion: Post Mortem, then Preview and Preparation
- 9/16 **Mind and Body**
Watch *Memento*
- 9/23 Discussion: Post Mortem, then "Music as Literature Guest" Brad Klypchak
- 9/30 Manhattan Short Film Festival
- 10/7 Discussion: Post Mortem, then Preview and Preparation
Have finished reading *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep*
- 10/14 **Social Behavior**
Watch *Blade Runner*
Discussion of the book and film, then Preview and Preparation
- 10/21 Watch *12 Angry Men*
- 10/28 Discussion: Post Mortem, then Preview and Preparation
- 11/4 Various Shorts and Assorted Psychobabble
Preview and Preparation
Have finished reading *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*
- 11/11 **Clinical Psychology**
Watch *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*
- 11/18 Discussion: Post Mortem, then Preview and Preparation
- 11/25 **Applied Psychology**
Watch *Office Space*
Discussion: Post Mortem
Turn in paper on *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*
- 12/2 Student Presentations
- Final It's a Wrap... Final Discussion
Final Paper's Due
-

The Instructors:

Ray Green, PhD, offices in the Dean's suite in the Nursing and Health Sciences building, Room 310. A picture of my schedule is next to the entry for 'chaos' in the library. Thus, please email me to make an appointment so that you don't waste a trip over to my building (although you can get yourself some Jimmy John's at least!). My email is: raymond.green@etamu.edu

Tracy B. Henley, PhD, should generally be around Binnion every day except Thursday. The hour or so before class is a great time for a visit, or we can find an alternative time for an appointment. You can also contact me at: tracy.henley@etamu.edu
